

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8273  
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AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMCONSUL BREMEN  
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF  
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT  
AMCONSUL HAMBURG  
AMCONSUL STUTTGART  
USMISSION USBERLIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, GW  
SUBJECT: STRAUSS OUTLINES CSU POSITION ON SELECTION OF FRG  
REPRESENTATIVES TO EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

REF: A) MUNICH 889, B) MUNICH 397

1. INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY: AT MARCH 28 PRESS CONFERENCE  
HERE, CSU CHAIRMAN FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS ENDORSED THE USE  
OF "POOLED LANDESLISTEN" (VERBUNDENE LANDESLISTEN) AS  
METHOD FOR ELECTING FRG REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FIRST  
POPULARLY-ELECTED EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IN 1978. HE ALSO  
CAME OUT IN FAVOR OF WAIVING THE CONCEPT OF "INCOMPATIBILITY,"  
ACCORDING TO WHICH MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS OF  
MEMBER STATES OF THE PARLIAMENT COULD NOT SIMULTANEOUSLY  
SIT IN THE PARLIAMENT. STRAUSS' MOTIVES IN ADOPTING  
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THESE POSITIONS SEEM TO BE MIXTURE OF POLITICAL REALISM  
AND SELF-INTEREST. END SUMMARY.

2. IN ISSUING HIS CALL FOR USE OF "POOLED LANDESLISTEN"  
IN ELECTION OF FRG REPRESENTATIVES TO EUROPEAN PARLIA-  
MENT IN 1978, STRAUSS STRESSED THAT THIS WAS POSITION  
SHARED BY CDU AND CSU. HE NOTED THAT THE COALITION PARTIES

(SPD AND FDP) HAVE EXPRESSED PREFERENCE FOR "BUNDESLISTEN;" HE EXPRESSED HOPE, HOWEVER, THAT THEY WOULD NOW EMBRACE THE UNION PARTIES' CONCEPT.

3. STRAUSS ALSO ADVOCATED THE WAIVING OF THE CONCEPT OF "INCOMPATIBILITY" FOR THE 1978 EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ELECTIONS ON A ONE-TIME ONLY BASIS. ACCORDING TO THIS CONCEPT, MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT WOULD NOT BE PERMITTED SIMULTANEOUSLY TO SEEK ELECTION TO OR SERVE IN THE PARLIAMENT.

4. ALTHOUGH HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT IN PRINCIPLE HE SUPPORTS THE CONCEPT OF "INCOMPATIBILITY," STRAUSS GAVE FOLLOWING JUSTIFICATION FOR HIS CALL FOR ONE-TIME SUSPENSION OF CONCEPT. HE NOTED THAT FRENCH PRESIDENT GISCARD RECENTLY SAID THAT THE ONLY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE PRESENT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE PARLIAMENT TO BE ELECTED IN 1978 IS IN THE METHOD BY WHICH 1978 PARLIAMENT IS TO BE ELECTED. IN OTHER WORDS, THE PARLIAMENT TO BE ELECTED IN 1978 WILL HAVE NO MORE LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY THAN THE PRESENT PARLIAMENT. GIVEN THIS ABSENCE OF ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT PROMINENT EUROPEAN POLITICAL FIGURES BE REPRESENTED IN THE PARLIAMENT IN ORDER TO GIVE IT IMPETUS AS WELL AS CREDIBILITY AMONG THE PEOPLES OF EUROPE. THE PRESENCE OF PROMINENT POLITICAL LEADERS WOULD ALSO SERVE TO GUARD AGAINST THE "REGIONALIZATION" OF THE FIRST POPULARLY-ELECTED PARLIAMENT.

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5. COMMENT (A) THERE IS A STRONG ELEMENT OF POLITICAL REALISM IN STRAUSS' ENDORSEMENT OF THE ONE-TIME WAIVER OF THE CONCEPT OF "INCOMPATIBILITY." SUCH A WAIVER WOULD SEEM TO BE A PRE-CONDITION FOR FDP ACCEPTANCE OF METHOD OF "POOLED LANDESLISTEN."

(B) STRAUSS' POSITION ON THE WAIVER OF "INCOMPATIBILITY" IS ALSO RELATED TO HIS DECISION TO SEEK OPENLY THE OFFICE OF MINISTER-PRESIDENT OF BAVARIA. STRAUSS' INTIMATES HAVE SAID PRIVATELY ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS THAT IF FRG'S REPRESENTATIVES TO EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT WERE TO BE ELECTED BY "BUNDESLISTEN," STRAUSS WOULD FEEL COMPELLED TO HEAD THE CSU "BUNDESLISTE." IT HAS BEEN UNCLEAR, HOWEVER, WHETHER THE CONCEPT OF "INCOMPATIBILITY" WOULD ALSO APPLY TO MINISTERS-PRESIDENT OF THE GERMAN LAENDER. WAIVER OF "INCOMPATIBILITY" WOULD PRESUMABLY ALSO MEAN THAT STRAUSS, AS MINISTER-PRESIDENT OF BAVARIA, COULD, IF NECESSARY, STAND FOR ELECTION TO THE PARLIAMENT AND SIT IN THE PARLIAMENT IF ELECTED. BETTS

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## Message Attributes

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